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Arabs plan reconciliation meeting

ABU DHABI, Feb. 9 (R). — Arab states confronting Israel and their backers further away from the scene of the conflict have agreed to hold a series of mini-summits to prepare for a full-scale Arab reconciliation conference, North Yemeni Foreign Minister Abdullah Al Asmag said here today. He told the Emirates News Agency before flying to Muscat after a three-day visit to the United Arab Emirates that this was the result of visits he had made to various Arab states. During a one-hour stop in Muscat Mr. Al Asmag held talks with Omani Foreign Ministry Undersecretary Youssef Al Alawi.

Price: Jordan 50 fils; Syria 50 piastres; Lebanon 75 piastres; Saudi Arabia 1 riyal; UAE 1 dirham; Great Britain 25 pence.

Anti-PLO West Banker killed

TEL AVIV, Feb. 9 (R). — A wealthy Arab merchant known for opposing the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) was shot dead last night outside his shop in the West Bank town of Ramallah. Police said preliminary investigations indicated that the killers of Mr. Abdul Muhsin were PLO supporters. A few hours before he was killed Mr. Muhsin met Defence Minister Ezer Weizman during the minister's tour of Ramallah. They met at the local Chamber of Commerce where Mr. Muhsin outlined his proposals for self-rule on the West Bank, Defence Ministry aides said.

Declaration of principles not enough

King Hussein: Jordan insists on a plan of action for M.E. peace

AMMAN, Feb. 9 (JNA). — A Queen's statement by Egypt and Israel of the principles for the Middle East peace is not sufficient to draw Jordan into the current negotiations between the two countries, His Majesty King Hussein said in an interview here today. Jordan demands a full commitment to the principles contained in United Nations resolutions on the subject, enshrined in a plan of action for peace before it will sit down at the negotiating table, King Hussein told Agence France Press in an interview conducted in Amman. Jordan has always called for the establishment of a just and honourable peace, and will be ready to assume its role in achieving that goal once such a plan of action is formulated, the King added. Asked whether Jordan was willing to join in the negotiations if Egypt and Israel issued a general declaration of principles, the King said that principles for peace have already been declared and are contained in U.N. Resolutions 242 and 338. The point, he said, is not the redefinition of the principles but the implementation of these resolutions or principles. The King said that Israel, since its occupation of Arab territory in 1967, has been consistently avoiding the implementation of these principles and always finds excuses for not carrying them out. Israel has been continuously engaged in changing the character of the occupied Arab territories and annexing more Arab land, including Arab Jerusalem, in defiance of the international will and U.N. resolutions, King Hussein added. Therefore there is no point in Jordan's participating in current negotiations just because a redeclaration of principles is issued, the King added.

Plan for peace

For Jordan and other parties to be able to join in the negotiations, the King said, there should be not only a declaration of principles but also a full commitment for their implementation within a plan of action. These he listed as follows:

1. A complete Israeli withdrawal from all Arab lands occupied since 1967.
2. The exercising by the Palestinian people of their right to determine their own future under international supervision.
3. A solution to the refugee problem in accordance with U.N. resolutions, through repatriation or compensation.
4. Guarantees for all nations in the region to live in peace and security, with the Arabs in particular being given such guarantees as they are facing Israeli expansionism.

In reply to another question about the Arab attitude should President Sadat's initiative fail, the King said that Israel will have to bear the full responsibility for denying the region peace. President Sadat would have served the Arab nation by attempting to solve the problem and by exposing to the world Israel's true ambitions. The Arabs, he said, would then suffer disillusionment and abandon hope of achieving peace with Israel on an acceptable and honourable basis. They would then have to decide for themselves on the next step and work out a sound plan for building a united and strong Arab force to counter Israeli arrogance, the King said.

He added that foreign countries that have been supporting Israel should reconsider their positions in that event and the Arabs should re-evaluate their attitudes toward those countries in the light of this.

Accord with Syria healthy

Answering a question on reports of a cooling down in relations between Jordan and Syria, the King said he felt no such cooling. On the contrary, the King said, he was proud of what the two countries have achieved towards integration. Although, it is common for brothers to have different views on certain matters, Syria and Jordan are in full agreement on basic issues, particularly on their joint stand in the defence of the Arab nation, King Hussein said.



His Majesty King Hussein says a prayer at the tomb of the late Queen Ayla Thursday. At the far left is Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker, Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces. In between Sharif Zaid and the Sheikh leading the prayer is Chief of Protocol Yasar Hikmat. (JNA photo)

Nation pays tribute to Queen Ayla

AMMAN, Feb. 9 (JNA). — On the first anniversary of the death of Queen Ayla, His Majesty King Hussein today visited the late queen's tomb where he joined in prayers for the peace of her soul and laid a wreath on the tomb.

The tomb was also visited by His Highness Crown Prince Hassan, and other members of the royal family, Prime Minister Mudar Badran, cabinet members, the commander in chief of the armed forces, senior officials, leaders of religious groups, and high-ranking army officers. Also paying tribute were the Iranian ambassador, the commander of the Palestine Liberation Army in Jordan and other notables and key public figures.

In the afternoon a commemorative religious service was held at the Raghdan Palace which was attended by King Hussein, Prince Hassan and members of the royal family. The King later visited the family of the late Queen as well as families of Mohammad Al Basheer, Badreddine Zaza and Muhammad Al Khass who were killed along with Queen Ayla in the helicopter crash.

Sadat confers with Callaghan, Schmidt

HAMBURG, WEST GERMANY, Feb. 9 (R). — President Anwar Sadat said today that a peace settlement with Israel could be reached within a week "if the right conditions prevail on the other side."

But he added that moves to reconcile the two countries had reached a crucial stage and that failure to keep up the momentum provided by his visit to Jerusalem in November could lead to "a state of tension and devastation" in the Middle East.

President Sadat had talks lasting just over an hour each with British Prime Minister James Callaghan in London, and with West German Chancellor Helmut Schmidt here. He told journalists he had briefed the British and West German leaders about latest peace developments, and his six-day visit to the United States, which ended yesterday.

Speaking at a press conference at London airport, President Sadat said that despite the stalled Israeli-Egyptian political and military negotiations, a settlement was still possible. In New York, Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan held talks with U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Alfred Atherton today but did not discuss the increasingly controversial settlements on occupied Arab land.

Mr. Dayan told waiting reporters: "Mr. Atherton and I have different ideas about that (the settlements). But we are very happy to welcome his return to Israel so we can go on with what we started, the Egyptian mediation."

Israel planned to attack Jerusalem in 1962

TEL AVIV, Feb. 9 (AP). — Israel captured Arab Jerusalem in the 1967 war, but it was poised to invade the city as far back as 1962 and abort the operation at the last minute, Israel's top soldier was quoted Thursday as saying. Lt. Gen. Mordechai Gur, the military chief of staff, was quoted by Israeli newspapers as saying Israel planned to capture the city during a spell of Palestinian unrest there in 1962. No reason was given for cancelling the scheme.

In occupied Jerusalem a government official told Reuters the Israeli cabinet would study the Egyptian government's announcement yesterday that a resumption of the joint military talks in Cairo depended on progress on the political front, and "may well recall its delegation if the Egyptians insist on delaying the talks."

Unprecedented praise from President Carter and the promise of a more active U.S. role in Middle East peace negotiations -- but not a public pledge of arms support -- marked the windup of President Sadat's visit to Washington.

"You're a great man," Carter said Wednesday. "I hate to see you go." From Washington, the Egyptian leaders flew to New York before going on to London.

Mr. Carter, meanwhile, invited a small group of American Jewish leaders in for a "very private dinner" and an explanation of U.S. policy in the Middle East.

NABLUS, JENIN PROTESTS CONTINUE

TEL AVIV, Feb. 9 (R). — Students in the towns of Nablus and Jenin on the Israeli-occupied West Bank today continued street demonstrations against Jewish settlements in Arab areas, local residents said.

The demonstrators marched through the streets, shouting slogans and stoning passing cars until dispersed by security forces.

Security sources said about 50 youths have been detained since the demonstrations started on Sunday.

Libya, Sudan resume relations

CAIRO, Feb. 9 (R). — Sudan and the Libyan Jamahiriyyah have resumed diplomatic relations which were broken in 1976, the Middle East News Agency (MENA) said today. MENA's report, from Khartoum, said the move was agreed during a two-day visit to Tripoli by Sudanese Vice President Abu El Gasim Mohammed Ibrahim. He returned to Khartoum today.

Syria brings heavy tanks into play to quell Lebanon fighting

BEIRUT, Feb. 9 (Agencies). — The Syrian army threw heavy tanks into battle today against Lebanese forces in a third day of dogged street fighting which has turned Christian east Beirut into a ghost town.

Clashes were reported today between elements of Lebanon's army -- being rebuilt after the 1975-1976 civil war -- and the Syrian troops who halted that war 15 months ago under an Arab League peace-keeping mandate.

These clashes were in the eastern suburb of Fayadiyah, where the flare-up began on Tuesday.

In Beirut itself, Syrians and rightist Lebanese militiamen today blasted each other on three fronts.

Rightist commanders said the Syrians had been trying to move reinforcements into the eastern district of Ashrafiyeh, in the heart of Christian Beirut. But they had been stopped by fierce resistance.

The sharp bark of heavy tank guns from Syrian positions facing the district echoed Ashrafiyeh's deserted streets for much of today. The rightists countered with heavy machine-guns and rocket propelled grenades.

The fresh hostilities followed an overnight truce that was punctuated by occasional volleys of machinegun fire and explosions in the Christian sector of Beirut.

The cease-fire was ordered by both Syrian President Hafez Assad and Lebanese President Elias Sarkis, following hours of negotiations between a Syrian envoy from Damascus and the Lebanese government. "There was a lull part of the night," a Lebanese woman trapped in a basement near the barracks said by telephone. "But all hell broke loose again at daybreak."

Reliable rightwing sources said the Syrians were moving armoured reinforcements including modern Soviet-built T-62 tanks, to the eastern hills overlooking Beirut on three routes. A 16-km stretch of the closed Beirut-Damascus highway facing the besieged garrison was lined with Syrian army Soviet-made T-54 and T-62 tanks.

Christian irregulars, who fought against an alliance of leftist Moslems and Palestinian guerrillas during the civil war, came to the support of the army barracks manned primarily by former Christian militiamen. This caused the fighting to spread to three main residential areas in Beirut's Christian sector on the second day of fighting yesterday.

The "Tigers" militia of former President Camille Chamoun's National Liberal Party mounted surprise attacks on Syrian positions along the three-km "green line" dividing Beirut into Christian and Moslem sectors.

In one incident today, eyewitnesses reported a six-man Syrian patrol was burned to death in an armoured personnel carrier shot by an armour piercing rocket at the edge of the Christian residential area of Ein Rummaneh.

The commander of the embattled Lebanese garrison in Fayadiyah today gave Syrian forces 24 hours to lift their siege or face a counter-attack by his 800 troops.

Col. Antoine Barakat's warning to "move from defence to offence" was taken here as a sign that he may undertake a breakthrough attempt because he was running short of ammunition and food supplies.

Operating in a heavy rain-storm, a ring of Syrian tanks and multiple rocket launchers pounded Barakat's beleaguered garrison.

Rightwing sources said the Syrians appeared bent on a show-down after Lebanese army officers had refused to accede to the Damascus leadership's conditions for a cease-fire.

The sources said the Syrians had demanded the handover of the Lebanese army barracks at Fayadiyah and of its commander, Col. Barakat. He used to be in charge of one of the rightist splinter groups which emerged from the civil war collapse of the regular army.

"Who should these demands be met?" said an official of the Lebanese Front. "Who is fighting who here? Whose country is it? Ours or theirs?"

Sarkis sends 3-man team to Damascus

Meanwhile, President Sarkis dispatched a three-man delegation to Damascus for talks with President Assad on arrangements to stop the fighting.

A delegation of former President Suleiman Franjeh, Defence Minister Fouad Butros and the Lebanese commander of the peace force, Lt. Col. Sami Al Khatib, went to Damascus today.

Their departure followed an emergency meeting chaired by President Sarkis. The mood of the rightist militiamen, who returned to the streets over the past few days suggested no easy solution was in sight.

Anti-Syrian feeling among the Christian population ran high, fanned by a Syrian attack yesterday on the headquarters of the National Liberal Party (NLP) of Mr. Chamoun and shelling of a residential district last night.

Shopkeepers in the area around the NLP headquarters echoed the widespread feeling that the Syrians, who provide the bulk of the 30,000-strong Arab League peace force, had outstayed their welcome.

Chamoun complains

Mr. Chamoun, who heads the Lebanese Front, the umbrella for all rightwing parties, told Reuters today that "when the Syrians came to Lebanon it was to enforce law and order. But lately they are behaving like an army of occupation."

Asked to assess prospects for an end to the new bloodshed -- more than 50 people died last Tuesday and Wednesday -- Mr. Chamoun said: "As long as there is no cease-fire, no one can tell what will happen next."

No reliable figures on casualties today were available but rightist commanders near the combat zones thought they could be high. The radio of the rightwing Phalangist Party, Lebanon's biggest, broadcast urgent appeals for blood donors. At one hospital in the eastern

district, a doctor, his face grey with fatigue, said that 24 casualties had been brought in this morning. Some were badly wounded.

Fighting slackened after nightfall. But from the edge of Ashrafiyeh, a hilly district with narrow, winding streets, the muzzle flashes of tank guns and recoilless rifles could be seen.

Rumours that the Lebanese-Syrian fighting had sparked clashes between the former civil war foes -- the rightists and the Palestinian-leftist alliance -- were strongly denied by Palestinian and leftist officials.

But the action in the east of the city had an impact on the west, where traffic was sparse and most people stayed indoors in fear that fighting would spread.

Such fears were apparently shared by the Syrians. Residents of the southern port of Sidon reported Syrian troops digging trenches.

Intermittent shelling and sporadic exchanges of heavy machinegun fire were reported from southern Lebanon along the explosive frontier with Israel, where the peace force was never deployed and civil war spluttered on.

Local residents said rightists were exchanging fire with Palestinian commandos and their leftist allies.

KING HUSSEIN CONGRATULATES ASSAD

AMMAN, Feb. 9 (JNA). — His Majesty King Hussein today sent a cable of congratulations to President Hafez Assad on his re-election for a new seven-year term in office.

"I received with pleasure and satisfaction the news of your re-election by the people of Syria as their President," the King told Mr. Assad.

Assad gets 99.6% of the referendum vote

DAMASCUS, Syria, Feb. 9 (AP). — Syrian President Hafez Assad received 99.6 per cent of the vote in Wednesday's uncontested referendum for a second seven-year Presidential term, it was announced officially here today.

Assad's overwhelming victory was seen as a popular seal of approval for his staunch opposition to the unilateral peace initiative of Egypt's President Anwar Sadat.

Mohammad Ali Halabi, speaker of the National Assembly, told a press conference that 3,991,695 (97 per cent) out of a total of 4,115,149 eligible voters cast an affirmative vote. Assad was the only candidate

and voters were asked to vote either yes or no.

Halabi said only 4,798 people voted no, while 11,168 ballot papers were declared invalid. Assad, 47, is the first president to serve a full seven-year term since Syria became independent in 1946.

He seized power in a bloodless coup d'etat in 1970, throwing the then ruling leaders of a rival faction of the Baath Socialist Party into jail, where they remain to this day.

Assad is the leader of the group of hardline Arab states, including the Palestine Liberation Organisation, that have branded Sadat a traitor for his peace overtures to Israel.



HAYA ARTS CENTRE

In memory of the first anniversary of the death of Her Majesty Queen Ayla, the Haya Arts Centre presents an arts exhibition -- children's paintings and handicraft.

The exhibition which opened Thursday, Feb. 9, will continue through Friday and Saturday, Feb. 10 and 11 from 10:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Normal activities at the centre are cancelled during the exhibition.

Somalia plans mass mobilisation

LONDON, Feb. 9 (R). — Somalia today announced plans for a mass mobilisation of civilians and threatened to launch its regular army against British-backed Ethiopian forces battling for the Ogaden desert in the Horn of Africa.

Appealing anew for Western and Arab help, a Somali government minister charged that the Ethiopians were moving to extend the fighting with the aim of annexing northern Somalia.

The Somali Information Minister told a press conference in Mogadishu that if Ethiopia internationalised the war in this way then "we have no alternative but to send our troops in."

In Addis Ababa, meanwhile, diplomatic sources said Ethiopian helicopters have dropped leaflets over the eastern battlefront urging Somali forces to lay down their arms.

The Ethiopian military command, which has mounted a

land-air offensive supported by Soviet and Cuban personnel to regain captured land said last night that they could either surrender or die.

The Somali information minister told the press conference that the call-up of civilians would begin soon, adding: "The Somali Democratic Republic will mobilise all its available manpower to defend its sovereignty."

In his appeal for Western and Arab aid, the Somali minister declared: "We are no match for Soviet armed forces and Cuban armed forces."

He said Somalia could not stand alone.

Ethiopia insisted, however, that Egypt had already sent arms and men to help Somalia and was preparing to dispatch more troops.

In Cairo, an Egyptian military spokesman commented: "We have no troops in Somalia." He denied an Ethiopian claim last week that 5,000 Egyptian troops were on their way to help Somali forces.

PLO threatens Jewish settlements

GENEVA, Switzerland, Feb. 9 (AP). — The Palestine Liberation Organisation threatened today to attack Jewish settlements on Arab soil.

The statement was released as the U.N. Human Rights Commission was discussing the settlements and Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin was raising funds from Swiss Jews in Geneva.

"We make it a point to affirm these settlements are military objectives. The PLO declares that they will be exposed to attack by its military forces," the statement said.

In New York, Israel's Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan said yesterday there was virtually no chance that his government will remove existing settlements from Israeli-occupied Arab lands on the West Bank.

"In the near future we promise we will not establish any new settlements outside of military camps," he said in a speech to U.S. Jewish leaders. "However, we won't remove existing settlements."

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Superpower or super talker?

Once again, we witness the ungracious spectacle of the United States being humbled by Israel, as the United States issues newer and stronger statements condemning Israeli settlements in occupied Arab lands, while Israel goes ahead merrily building new settlements wherever it feels like doing so. The damage in this process is not in the Middle East, where the Israeli settlements are a way of life, but rather the real damage is in the dropping credibility of the United States. Every time the Americans repeat their objections to Israeli settlements, the voice of American indignation grows a little less forceful, a little less awesome and a little less convincing, in view of how Israel continues doing whatever it feels like doing in the occupied Arab territories.

The missing element in the American position is a strong dose of putting some bite into its bark. The Americans will soon find themselves the laughing stock of the world if they insist on complaining about Israeli settlements in word only, while giving Israel the de facto support it requires to continue along its expansionist and colonialist way. The United States should face up to the fact that, in this area, it is a paper tiger, and no matter how many messages President Carter sends to Premier Begin, the messages are pieces of paper that probably end up in Mr. Begin's wastepaper basket. If that is a reality that is difficult for the United States to swallow, it is a reality that is unavoidable nevertheless.

It would be an act of true courage for the United States to tie its annual economic and military aid commitments to Israel to the condition that the Israeli settlements programme be progressively rolled back. If the United States is not willing to back up its words with action, it would be more logical then for it to stop complaining about the Israeli settlements. The settlements are bad enough. But the settlements coupled with a continuous humiliation of the United States is worse, given the United States' ambitions as a peace-maker.

ARAB PRESS COMMENTARY

AL RA'I, on Thursday, said President Sadat's visit to the United States ended, as it began, in an atmosphere of pessimism. Despite strenuous efforts the joint statement which concluded the Sadat-Carter talks could only express a paltry call for the resumption of direct negotiations between Egypt and Israel. The net result is that "Zionist" America is stronger than "American" America and the oft-repeated assertion that the key cards for a Middle East peace now appear to be in the hands of the American Zionist lobby rather than in those of the administration. Hence, the resumed fighting in Lebanon comes as an indicator of a new struggle aimed at aborting any Arab move towards a unified stand against Israeli hostility.

AL DUSTOUR said Israeli Premier Menachem Begin's logic is a wonder. For him it is a threat that Egypt acquires American weapons and it is unfair that Palestinians have a state of their own but is a proper and fair thing that Israel amasses a stockpile of weapons and claims a "divine right" to the land of the Palestinians. Israel could not have said things as stupid as this to the world had American arms been denied it and had the Carter administration been less effeminate in its rejection of Israeli intransigence.



"Last Tango in Washington" -- from Ma'ariv.

Twelve notable Arabs will be the vehicle for British author to project Arab culture

Touring the Middle East these days making preparations for a new book, provisionally titled "Twelve Notable Arabs," the British author, Lady Listowel, explained her project, while visiting Jordan, to Janset Shami:

Lady Listowel is commissioned to write her latest book by Harcourt, Brace, Jovanovich, an American publishing company. The book will have a print run of half a million copies she says. Lady Listowel believes that there is a need for such a book. "At present all the Americans know about the Arabs is that they have lots of money from the oil and they spend it freely. I want to show that the Arabs are one of the oldest races in the world. They have headed many great empires -- tremendous civilizations -- and have led the world in mathematics, astrology and invented the alphabet. I will show how powerful and cultured the Arabs were after the Prophet Muhammad. Then the Turkish conquest came. But two world wars brought independence, and the new oil wealth gives them the chance to develop as quickly as modern means allow and to create yet another great Arab civilization."

She plans to achieve the point she wants to make in her book by introducing the leaders of the Middle East. In addition to the national leaders her book will include some other people of importance who are trying to help their countries to their own way. She cites Dr. Subhi Kahale of Syria and Nacla Allouba of Egypt as examples. "From Jordan, I want to write about His Majesty King Hussein, and to give a good picture of Crown Prince Hassan," she says.

The other leaders on her list are Presidents Sadat and Assad, the rulers of Kuwait, Bahrain, Abu Dhabi, Dubai, Sultan Qaboos of Oman, a leading Yemeni, and from Saudi Arabia King Khalid, Prince Fahd and Prince Saud.

After Jordan she heads for Syria, where she already has a fixed appointment with President Assad. After that her travels will keep her on the

move for two months. Lady Listowel is already the author of eight books. Her first "This I have seen" was published in 1943, and her latest "A Hapsburg Tragedy: Crown Prince Rudolf" is to come out in May.

Lady Listowel started writing as a schoolgirl, first in Hungary, her original home and then from the London School of Economics, where she went to study.

In 1933 she married Lord Listowel and made England her home. She is the daughter of a diplomat who served in Austro-Hungarian diplomatic service and later in the Hungarian diplomatic service.

Lady Listowel's family regarded her becoming a journalist as a disgrace to the family, and when her first editorial appeared in the local newspaper, she was not allowed to sign it, because she was a woman.

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Another visitor to the gallery, John Tsimberidis, pleased with Durra's use of color stated that the artist's paintings "have great merit" and "break out of the mold of so many of the works produced in the Middle East."

The fact that three of his paintings were singled out and purchased by David Rockefeller while he was in Jordan is a source of pride for Mohanna Durra. Another of his works was presented by the artist who was familiar with his work from previous shows in Europe and the Arab World observed that the series of recent paintings chosen for the Washington exhibit featured the textured planes and angular contours of desert architecture. She pointed out that this reflected the fact that "a great deal of building and construction is taking place these days in the villages and cities of Jordan -- especially in Amman."

Palestinian Artist, Kamal Boulatta, also among the guests stressed that Durra's style departs from traditional Jordanian art forms and at the same time avoids being a mere imitation of the western art forms to which Durra was exposed as an academy of fi-

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Israelis seal house, evict family of 8 in W. Bank

In our continuing series of reports, notices and updates on Israeli violations of human rights we publish today a report by Israeli attorney, Felich Langer, which was distributed last fall by the Palestine Human Rights Campaign in Washington D.C.

On September 30, 1977, Abd el Assal and I accompanied by the journalist Ramonda Tawil from Ramallah, visited the village of Biddu in the Ramallah region of the occupied West Bank. The purpose of our visit was to investigate the sealed-up house of the Al Hudur family. The family consists of six children, the youngest one year old and the oldest a boy of eight. The mother of the six is in her eighth month of pregnancy. I am serving as attorney to the family's father, Harbi, who was arrested on July 23, 1977 and has been since then at the "Russian Compound" detention center under suspicion of "hostile activity" as claimed by the occupation authorities. So far no indictment whatsoever has been presented against him.

When we arrived there after a difficult journey over an unpaved and hilly road and a narrow path to the house, the following scene unfolded before our eyes: A small pink coloured house, its windows and doors sealed up with concrete. Even the little room on the ground floor which looked like a small storeroom,

she would rather die than move from her home, the officer turned to the village mukhtar who accompanied him, and ordered him to bring men from the village. After they arrived, he ordered them to remove the woman and her children from the house, together with their belongings, by force and without delay. This was done.

When the youngest was brought out into the burning sunshine, the woman again pleaded with the soldiers and asked for mercy, but to no avail. After that, several dozen soldiers took part in the action -- some working others guarding with pointed guns -- they pulled out the window sills, sealed up the windows and doors, and then the well in the yard.

The woman and her children found shelter in a nearby dark pit, where the day's light does not reach them. They suffer intolerably from thirst, since bringing water to that place is very difficult because of the unpaved road and the winding and steep path. The children want to drink and to wash themselves. When we arrived at the spot, we

ISRAEL AND HUMAN RIGHTS

used by the family as a kitchen, had been sealed.

Moreover, the well in the yard, which had been the sole source of water for the whole family, was sealed with concrete. On the face of the well and on the sealed windows the soldiers had painted the Star of David, and the date of the sealing -- Sept. 18, 1977.

Harbi's wife, Nashe, told us that on that day an Israeli officer whom she did not know arrived at her home, without previous announcement. Only later did she become aware of the fact that this officer was the military governor himself. He ordered her and her children to evacuate the house within half an hour and to take with them all their belongings; otherwise everything would be destroyed. The woman, who was sick that day, fainted on the spot on hearing the order. After recovering, and comprehending the calamity about to befall her and her family, she asked for mercy from the officer, the Israeli army and even the mercy of the Prime Minister, Menachem Begin.

She presented her six small children and pleaded that neither they, nor she herself, were involved in any act against the authorities; it was her husband who was detained and should be judged.

She appealed to this officer's conscience, pleading with him that he himself probably had children, and therefore how could he possibly look on while her children become homeless. The officer did not respond in any way. When she announced that

of them asked us to give him some water.

Some days before I saw the sealed up house, the woman came to see me and told me of her plight. I sent a letter to the Military Governor of the Judea and Samaria district protesting the inhuman deed and demanding that the house, and well be opened immediately, so as to put an end to the unbearable sufferings of that innocent family which had become the victim of collective punishment, contradicting elementary principles of justice.

I intend to appeal to the Israeli High Court of Justice against this injustice. I shall turn to public opinion in Israel and the world, in order to reveal this case of gross brutality, alien to human feelings and representing a severe breach of the Fourth Geneva Convention.

I very much hope that everybody with conscientious feelings will lend their hands to act in order to save human dignity and the right of human existence of people in their homeland, and their right to have a roof over their heads.



Symbol of the Palestine Human Rights Campaign in Washington.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Sir,
 One of the major pharmaceutical companies in the world (The Boots Co. Ltd. of Britain) established its Middle East Office in Jordan two years ago, taking advantage of the public law designed to encourage foreign companies to open their Middle East based offices in Amman, promising them telefax and telephone facilities and certain tax and customs exemptions etc.

Boots of England, have since two years applied for a telefax but as yet not received one. Because of this, they are

now thinking of returning to Beirut after normalisation of the situation there. I asked them "what has caused you to come to this decision after enthusiastically planning to stay in Amman?" They told me of their great difficulties in obtaining new driving licences and the other facilities already mentioned above.

It is in the interest of this growing country to look into these misgivings and try to mend them as soon as possible. Nidal Sukhtian Amman, Jordan.

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Cinema critics wanted

The Jordan Times is looking for a qualified film critic to review films that are screened in Amman, both in the commercial cinemas as well as the cultural centres. We would like someone with previous experience in writing film reviews, and a proven expertise in the field of cinema and the performing arts in general. The position would probably involve writing one or two reviews per month, perhaps increasing to three or four per month with time. Interested persons who have the above qualifications and are interested in writing reviews for the Jordan Times should contact Mr. Khouri by telephone at the Jordan Times, at 67171, any time between 9:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m., and between 5:00 - 9:00 p.m.

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مركزنا في الامم

Visiting mayor says W. Bank town will establish citrus packing, marketing company

AMMAN, Feb. 9 (JT). — The Mayor of Qalqilya, Haj Amin Al Nasr who arrived here from the West Bank yesterday at the head of a delegation from Qalqilya said they came to finalise studies with the Jordanian authorities on a plan for exporting citrus fruits to Jordan and hence to other Arab countries.

In an interview with the daily newspaper Al Akhbar Haj Amin Al Nasr said their citrus fruits would be marketed through a new company called "Qalqilya Incorporated Company for Packing and Wax-coating Citrus fruits" which will be registered at the Jordanian Ministry of Industry and Commerce within the next few days. The aim of exporting West Bank citrus fruits to Jordan and other Arab countries is to improve the lot of the peasant through expansion of production and helping him to pay more attention and preserve his land, the Mayor of Qalqilya said.

Haj Amin said also his delegation will discuss with the Jordanian Ministry of Waqfs the possibility of establishing an Islamic religious institute in Qalqilya under supervision of the ministry.

Asked about his opinion on President Anwar Sadat's peace moves with Israel, Haj Amin said "we support any initiative that fulfills aspirations of the Palestinian people as represented by full Israel withdrawal from occupied Arab territories and giving the Palestinians the right to self-determination."

The Mayor of Qalqilya, a purely Arab town, only about 15 kms. from Tel Aviv, observed however, that Sadat's initiative has encouraged the Israelis to take a more hardline attitude and to continue setting up settlements, "which means that they do not intend to leave the occupied Arab areas."

Middle East threatens to become major new illegal drug source

GENEVA, (R). — Lebanon, Afghanistan and Pakistan threaten to become major new sources of illegal opium and heroin on the world drug market, the United Nations Narcotics Control Board reported yesterday.

The board said Middle Eastern heroin, probably made from opium produced illicitly in Afghanistan or Pakistan, had appeared in small quantities last year on the illegal markets of Western Europe.

In its annual report, the Geneva-based board said this was "a disturbing new development" and called for drug enforcement agencies and governments to keep a close watch on the situation.

The board said it was concerned at "persistent reports" of illicit opium poppy cultivation in Lebanon and the opportunity for Lebanese to take part in hard-drug trafficking as well as continuing to be "a prolific source" of cannabis.

Sub-continent production growing?

There were signs of a decline in illegal supplies from the traditional sources -- Burma, Thailand and Laos -- but illegal opium production might be growing in Afghanistan despite U.N.-supported action against traffickers, the board reported.

The Narcotics Control Board added: "There is a real danger that Afghanistan could become a major source of supply for the international illicit traffic, supplying markets well beyond the Middle East."

The U.N. body called for the Pakistan government to take "strong and appropriate measures" to forestall this, including enforcement without delay of a new drug law already drafted with the advice of U.N. experts.

In the United States, drug abuse ranked fourth as a cause of death among young men of 18 to 24. But the purity of heroin on the market there had fallen during the past year, and its price had risen, suggesting heroin was less readily available, the board said.

Penetrating Western Europe

The scale of heroin and cannabis seizures by security authorities showed "the determination of traffickers to penetrate Western Europe," the board reported. Eighteen countries seized significant quantities of heroin in 1976, 15 last year, and massive interceptions of cannabis were reported across Western Europe from Greece to Portugal.

Drug law enforcement agencies had temporarily disrupted traffickers by dispersing some groups of Chinese origin from the Netherlands last year.

But these could regroup elsewhere and there were indications that couriers to European origin were increasingly employed to reduce suspicion, the board said.

"There are signs that traffickers view Europe as a market with great potential," the board reported.

"Having itself become an important consumer market for the illicit traffickers, Western Europe may again emerge as a major transit area for narcotics destined for North America," it warned.

Prompt action and vigilance by Soviet authorities had apparently stopped use of Moscow's International Airports by heroin couriers in transit from South-East Asia to Western Europe, the U.N. body reported.

Seizures of heroin originating from South-East Asia reached 1,600 kilos in 1976, at least as much as throughout the world in 1975, the board said. Opium production seemed to be undiminished, but less was available on the world's illegal drug market.

"Eradication of illicit supply can only be hoped for in the long run," the board said in conclusion.

People in the News

Patty Hearst appeals to Supreme Court

WASHINGTON, (R). — Patricia Hearst has appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court to overturn the bank robbery conviction that could send her to prison for seven years. At present free on bail pending appeal, the newspaper heiress filed her petition to the high court. The judges normally decline to hear about 19 of every 20 appeals they receive. If the court refuses to hear the appeal -- a determination it will make within the next few months -- she would be put in jail in a matter of weeks.

Billy Carter buys into Plains newspaper

PLAINS, Georgia, (AP). — Billy Carter, the often controversial sometimes droll, brother of the U.S. president, has brought a partnership in a weekly newspaper, the Plains Statesman. The agreement was recorded on a brown paper bag, according to a recent edition of the newspaper. Joshua Forest, Editor of the year-old small newspaper, said he asked Mr. Carter to become a partner in January, after Mr. Carter had sold more than a thousand issues at his auto repair and gasoline station -- many of which the president's brother had autographed. "I'll give you \$50 for half of your newspaper," Billy Carter replied, according to the newspaper.

Polanski knew charges before fleeing

LOS ANGELES, (AP). — Before he fled to Europe, Roman Polanski knew he would go to prison and face deportation if he remained in the United States for sentencing in the sex case, the judge in the case has disclosed. Superior Court Judge Laurence J. Rittenband said he had revealed in advance to Polanski's lawyer his plans to deal harshly with the Polish-born director. The judge said it could be assumed that the lawyer relayed the word to Mr. Polanski. Mr. Polanski, a French citizen, is reported to be in Paris. The District Attorney's Office said it had begun efforts to extradite him, but had little hope of success. "What I wanted was to get him out of the country," Mr. Rittenband said in a telephone interview from his chambers in Santa Monica. "He doesn't belong here."

Liz Taylor puts up Cartier for sale

TOKYO, (R). — Film star Elizabeth Taylor wants to sell the massive Cartier diamond given her by ex-husband Richard Burton, according to a diamond firm handling the deal. Miss Alisa Cozzens of Charles Anthony Diamond Investments said here today the price would be more than \$4 million. Miss Taylor, now married to former U.S. Navy Secretary John Warner, plans using part of the proceeds to help build a hospital in Botswana, where she and Mr. Burton had their second wedding in October, 1975, Miss Cozzens said. The 69.42 carat diamond was cut from a 240.80 carat rough diamond mined in South Africa in 1966. Richard Burton gave it to Miss Taylor in 1969.

Sir Oliver Crosthwaite-Eyre dies

SALISBURY, Rhodesia (AP). — A conservative Member of Parliament, Sir Oliver Crosthwaite-Eyre, who was an ardent supporter of independence for Rhodesia, died at his home here last Friday after a heart attack. Sir Oliver was born in London in 1913. In 1958, he and his brother John, bought a fruit and timber farm in the eastern districts of Rhodesia, which the family still owns.

National News Roundup

Regulations introduced for Jordanian emigrant labour to Saudi Arabia

AMMAN, Feb. 9 (JNA). — The Ministry of Labour yesterday announced terms and instructions concerning Jordanian labourers wanting to work in Saudi Arabia. Under these rules, a Jordanian labourer reporting to the Ministry's labour office has to show the number of an entry visa which should be valid for six months, together with the original copy of an attested employment contract, a passport, scientific and practical certificates, visa fees, an original copy of good conduct certificate and a release certificate from the former employer in Saudi Arabia if the workman had previously worked there. The ministry will issue other relevant instructions later for Jordanians wishing to be employed in other Arab countries.

Money transfers up 21 per cent

AMMAN, Feb. 9 (JNA). — Money transferred through banks here by Jordanians abroad totalled JD 119 million in 1977, an increase of 21 per cent over 1976 when it amounted to JD 98 million, in official source at Jordan Central Bank said. The source stated that the increase was due to the open policy of the bank which permitted Jordanian living abroad to open their accounts in any foreign currency without any conditions.

Iraqi artist on visit

AMMAN, Feb. 9 (JNA). — An Iraqi artist, Ahlam Al Qadi arrived here yesterday to prepare for an art exhibition for her paintings to be held at the British Council here during April. Miss Al Qadi has held exhibitions in a number of Arab and foreign countries besides taking part in international fairs.

Jordanian delegate returns from Euro-Arab dialogue session

AMMAN, Feb. 9 (JNA). — Assistant to the Head of the Research Department at the Central Bank of Jordan, Dr. Ahmad Al Haurani returned here Wednesday after representing Jordan within an all-Arab group to the Euro-Arab dialogue on protection and encouragement of investments between the Arab countries and the European Economic Community (EEC) held at the Arab League headquarters, Cairo, on Jan. 29, 1978. Dr. Haurani said that during the meeting which lasted for one week, a study was made of a working paper put by the European side on the subject together with a formula to be presented by the Arab side in the next meeting with the aim of reaching a joint agreement on mutual protection and encouragement of investments.

Aramco grant for Yarmouk University

IRBID, Feb. 9 (JT). — The Yarmouk University here recently received \$60,000 as a grant from the Arab-American Oil Company (ARAMCO) at Dhahran, Saudi Arabia, President Dr. Adnan Badran has announced.

Trade minister discusses W. German projects

AMMAN, Feb. 9 (JNA). — Minister of Industry and Commerce Dr. Najmeddine Dajani discussed the various projects currently undertaken jointly by Jordan and the West German cooperation bureau with two West German economic experts. The two experts, now on a ten-day visit to Jordan, will hold further meetings on the implementation of these projects with officials from the National Planning Council, and the Industrial Development Bank.

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BUSINESS SUPPLIES



Israel delegation to seek joint venture with South Africa

CAPE TOWN, South Africa, Feb. 9 (AP). — The Israeli Ambassador to South Africa, Yitzhak Unna, yesterday accused the majority of United Nations members of hypocrisy in their dealings with South Africa. Mr. Unna made the comments as he introduced the Israeli Minister of Finance, Simcha Ehrlich, to businessmen at a function here. The minister is the highest ranking Israeli ever to officially visit South Africa.

Mr. Unna said Israel had undergone much soul searching before embarking on the drive to enlarge economic cooperation with South Africa. The Israelis, he said, did not have a lot of friends, but they did have considerable experience with "fair-weather friends" and South Africa was not one.

Accordingly, the ambassador said, Israel had decided against joining in "the hypocrisy of the majority of members at the United Nations" who qual-

ely traded with South Africa while attacking it in public. His government regarded these countries as "dishonest and non-sensical," Mr. Unna said.

The visiting Israelis said a high-powered delegation representing Israeli manufacturers would visit South Africa next month to seek joint ventures for exports to other countries. Earlier in the week Mr. Ehrlich told South African businessmen that Israel could serve as an outlet for exports to Eu-

rope and the United States. Mr. Ehrlich's visit is the first high-level follow-up to South African Prime Minister John Vorster's visit to Israel in April, 1976.

Israeli-South African ties have developed rapidly since most black African nations broke relations with the Jewish state after the 1973 Middle East War. Israel has remained an outspoken foe of South African race segregation policies, but has taken a pragmatic approach to diplomatic and economic ties.

Trade between the two countries is estimated at \$100 million, and prior to the U.N. arms embargo Israel also sold South Africa some military equipment.

Pakistan to ask for debt rescheduling

ISLAMABAD, Feb. 9 (R). — Pakistan will formally ask its Western aid consortium to agree to a rescheduling of its debts at its next meeting in June, official sources said today. They gave no figures on the amount of debt repayment Pakistan would like rescheduled.

Its foreign currency debts, aggravated by crop damage and last year's political upheaval, now stand at about \$6.3 billion, the sources said.

It was announced last Sunday that Iran had agreed to reschedule part of the first repayment on a \$580 million loan made in 1974 to bolster Pakistan's economy after the world oil crisis.

Informal sources said the agreement covers \$55 million which fell due last December. Details have not been finalized and talks are also expected on the other half of the first payment due in June.

A four-year rescheduling agreement with the consortium also expires in June. It provided relief on \$650 million with repayment over 30 years at 2.5 per cent interest with a 10-year grace period.

Previous short-term relief was arranged in 1971 and 1973.



It's only been ten years since PAL made its debut on the stage of colour television. PAL (for Phase Alternation Line) was devised by AEG-Telefunken engineer Walter Bruch and represented a breakthrough in the field in 1967. But the sets employing the new technology consumed considerable amounts of power, and even today, colour T.V. sets using up to 350 watts are no rarities. Now Blaupunkt has just unveiled a new generation of colour television sets at the recent International Radio Exhibition in West Berlin. The new 51-cm. screen set needs only 75 watt of power to operate without any reduction in the quality of the picture. Vastly improved circuit efficiency is to thank for the difference. Though the savings in terms of energy is not a major one for a viewer -- some DM 4.50 a year if he averages a daily three hours of viewing -- the impact on a nation as a whole could be considerable. Thus, if all colour television sets in Germany consumed this modest sum of energy -- some 9 million sets are registered at present -- the equivalent power output of a power plant with a capacity of 3,000 Megawatt could be saved. Blaupunkt, a subsidiary of Bosch located in Hildesheim, hopes this feature will bring more black-and-white viewers into the colour set ranks. But observers expect the next big buying spree of colour sets to come when the 1978 World Cup football championships are on the horizon. 16 sets like those in the photo consume the same amount of power as the hair dryer in the hand of this young lady. (INF photo)

Iceland to devalue krona 13%

REYKJAVIK, Feb. 9 (R). — Iceland will devalue its currency, the krona, by 13 per cent, the central bank of Iceland announced yesterday. It was the first of several measures Prime Minister Geir Hallgrímsson said the government was planning to overcome the country's economic difficulties.

Financial circles had regarded the devaluation as inevitable following suspension of foreign currency trading by the Central Bank on Sunday.

The prime minister told parliament during a debate on legislation to devalue the currency that trading in foreign currency was expected to begin again by Friday or on Monday.

The krona, which traded at 220 to the dollar last week was expected to reach 253 to the dollar when banks open again.

The Central Bank said in a statement: "The devaluation is inevitable because of a growing discrepancy between production costs and the prices both in Iceland and in foreign currencies which is making the position of all the Icelandic exporting industries untenable."

External factors included the weakness of the dollar. The United States is Iceland's most important market, the bank said.

Brazilians get caught in a coffee dilemma

Falling consumption in traditional markets and lower prices have forced some Brazilian coffee growers into bankruptcy, at a time when the government is re-thinking coffee's role in the Brazilian economy.

RIO DE JANEIRO, (WFS) — The Brazilian coffee industry is racing against time. Falling consumption and prices on world markets have already led to bankruptcies among coffee-growers and exporters in the rich coffee states of Paraná and São Paulo. Government policy-makers, fearful of the effects on the balance of payments, are re-evaluating coffee's role in the economy.

Following the worst frost in Brazilian memory in 1975 and the consequent restriction of supply, world coffee prices sky-rocketed. By late 1976 and early 1977, prices had reached the unprecedented level of \$400 per 60 kilo (132 lb.) bag, prompting consumer protests and government investigations in major coffee-importing states like the United States and Britain.

Coffee bust

A variety of factors have now reversed the 1976-1977 coffee boom. Good 1976 weather, reasonably good crops, and, most importantly, a decline in world consumption brought coffee prices to less than \$200 per bag by December, 1977.

Lower consumption forced most coffee exporting countries to re-evaluate their marketing strategies with an emphasis on free market forces and the long-range development of a coffee stabilisation plan. Brazil, the world's largest coffee exporter, attempted to back the free market trend until as recently as October, when coffee prices fell to less than half of their April levels. Now even Brazil has been forced to sell at the lower prices.

Throughout the Northern Hemisphere's summer and autumn, Interbras, a Brazilian government import-export agency, purchased and warehoused coffee shipments from relatively minor Central American, African and Asian producers in an apparent attempt to restrict world supply.

A U.S. government report estimated that Brazil had purchased some 500,000 bags by late summer. By October most estimates indicated that an additional several hundred thousand bags had been purchased. (Brazil's 13 million bags accounted for about one fourth of 1976 world coffee exports). Brazil paid prices well below the April high but will probably sustain a loss in the long run, with world coffee prices stabilising around the \$200 per bag mark.

At the same time as Brazil was buying coffee reserves, the government maintained its mandatory export price controls. As recently as October the Brazilian Commerce Department prohibited the foreign sale of Brazilian coffee for less than \$300 a bag -- a price no importer was willing to pay. Bankruptcies and a call for subsidies and supports by growers and exporters resulted.

Consumption decline

The strategy of buying foreign crops and freezing domestic exports failed for a number of reasons. In late summer Colombia freed half of its 1.5 million-bag reserve, and in late autumn large African and Asian crops flooded world markets. But, perhaps most importantly, traditional consuming nations have simply been demanding less.

Brazilian dealers have been warned, in some cases by their own pundits, that world consumption is declining. On a per capita basis, wrote a Brazilian analyst in Jornal do Brasil earlier this year, North American consumption has declined by one third since the early 1960's, and the figures among European consumers are equally pessimistic. The European Green Coffee Association recently estimated that European consumption had fallen by 15 per cent during the recent coffee boom alone.

In November, faced with the Finance Ministry's preoccupation with balancing the country's trade figures by the end of the year, the government substantially altered its minimum price policy by permitting selected dealers to negotiate sales with their traditional Northern Hemisphere customers. The minimum price exemption has now become a routine, and Brazilian coffee is selling more or less in line with world price fluctuations.

Production limits

Moderate-sized crops will be able to more than supply the needs of what is now a somewhat reduced world demand for coffee. At the same time, however, nations such as Brazil will continue to limit their total coffee production. When all the statistics are in, total 1977 coffee exports by Brazil will probably be slightly lower than in 1976, and 1978 sales may be lower still. Following the bad 1975 frost, the country has pursued a policy of gradually replanting its coffee lands -- a policy which in the end will probably see a net shrinkage in coffee cultivation.

A final step which is being taken is the development by the World Coffee Organisation of multi-national coffee policy which will attempt to stabilise world coffee prices by the early 1980's. The effort will attempt to match supply to demand without dramatic price fluctuations. The ultimate aim of the group is to create a "strategic reserve" which will control 10 per cent of world supply at any given moment.

Although the 1976-1977 price rise was a boon for Brazil, the country is no longer relying on its principal agricultural export for future trade surpluses. Coffee growers' appeals for price supports earlier this year were rejected by the regime as "inflationary" and a number of dealers were permitted to go into bankruptcy. More than anything else, the diversification of the nation's exports will permit Brazilian policy-makers to approach the coffee problem with a greater degree of flexibility in the future.

Economic barriers will be a major obstacle to a solution in Cyprus

The new Turkish leader, Bulent Ecevit, has promised to produce a new offer for the Greeks on the question of Cyprus. But for the Turks who live on Cyprus, whatever the conference table produces there will still be barriers between them and the Greek-Cypriots, as solid as the Berlin wall.

By Metin Munir

NICOSIA — Cyprus is the only country in the world where there are two inflation rates. In the Turkish-controlled north -- the so-called Turkish Federated State of Cyprus -- inflation last year averaged about 30 per cent. In the Greek south the rate was an enviable four per cent. Just about the only two things which are cheaper in the Turkish sector than in the Greek are imported whiskeys and cigarettes.

Inflation is one of the many indicators which demonstrates the big gap in the economic strength of the 150,000 Turks and the 600,000 Greeks. Indeed, the distinction between the two is so sharp that despite being very small the two zones appear like two different countries.

Turks fail to raise GNP

Since the war the Turks have made remarkable progress in economic development, but they have not been able to raise the GNP in their zone to the pre-war level.

There are many reasons for this failure. In the 11 years of inter-communal strife which preceded the war, the Turkish Cypriots lived in poverty-stricken enclaves, cast outside the administration and the economy by the dominant Gr-

U.S. scientists unveil massive solar power satellite project

WASHINGTON, Feb. 9 (R). — Five hundred workers in space building gigantic solar power satellites. That was the staggering engineering concept unveiled yesterday by U.S. scientists -- a project that could produce half of America's energy needs by the year 2000.

The project, the biggest in space flight history, was put to President Carter's science adviser Dr. Frank Press, by its developers, the Boeing Aircraft Corporation, at the White House.

Boeing scientist Ralph Nansen estimated the cost at \$40-80 billion and said: "The technology is in this country now."

The satellites, 29 kms. long and 6.5 kms. wide, would be built in low earth orbit by about 500 workers in an orbiting factory, he said. Materials would be ferried up by large unmanned space freighters similar to the U.S. Space Shuttle now being tested.

After being built, the craft, weighing about 110,000 tons, would be moved out to orbit 35,000 kms. above the equator. Fourteen billion solar cells

on each satellite would transform the sun's light into microwave energy and beam it to giant antennas on earth, which would convert it into electricity.

Mr. Nansen, who said Boeing studied the idea for 10 years, said the satellites could supply half American energy needs by the year 2000. One satellite alone could power a million homes. Each could last hundreds of years, he said.

Boeing would urge President Carter to begin a \$3 billion "verification phase" in hopes

of creating a small working model of the system.

The development would raise international issues, he said. Other firms are under government contract to study solar energy but this is the first firm engineering project on such a huge scale.

China accepts U.S. computer safeguard conditions

TOKYO, Feb. 9 (R). — China has accepted safeguard conditions set by the United States for the multi-million dollar sale of three large Japanese computers to Peking, the International Trade Ministry said here today.

The conditions were a reduction of memory capacities and the supplying of a log of computer read-outs to the manufacturer, Hitachi Limited, in China for three years to ensure the machines were not being used for military purposes, it said.

China ordered the computers in 1975 for meteorological observation at a total cost of between 2.5 to three billion yen (\$10.4-12.5 million), the first computer sale to China by a non-communist country.

The International Trade Ministry said yesterday the United States was the only member of the 15-nation COCOM organisation (coordinating committee for goods to communist areas) that objected to the sale.

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France recovers

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Prime Minister Raymond Barre said at the weekend the government would support the franc and, with the recovery already under way, President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing announced he had instructed his premier to use all the means at his disposal to stop its depreciation.

China accepts U.S. computer safeguard conditions

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مكتبة الأمل

Greek premier agrees problem-solving meet with Turkey's Ecevit

ATHENS, Feb. 9 (Agencies). — Greek Premier Constantine Karamanlis has agreed to a face-to-face meeting with his Turkish counterpart next month for initial talks on long-standing Greek-Turkish problems, his office announced today. In a letter to Premier Bulent Ecevit, Mr. Karamanlis proposed that the exact date and location be set through diplomatic channels. Mr. Karamanlis was responding to a message from Mr. Ecevit three days ago suggesting they hold initial talks without any rigid agenda.

The discussions are expected to centre on disputes over exploration rights in the Aegean Sea and the right of control on Aegean airspace. Greece has said in the past that it will not discuss the thorny question of Cyprus since it was up to the island state to decide about its future as a free and sovereign state.

Mr. Ecevit, in a letter on Monday, proposed initial contact instead of a meeting "with the objective of finding concrete solutions to specific issues."

In reply Mr. Karamanlis said: "As you know, I believe that if we were aiming at finding solutions, our meeting ought to be adequately prepared. However, in the spirit of your latest proposal, I would have no objection to our meeting during the coming month of March."

He added: "It is my hope too that we shall be given the

opportunity of reaffirming and manifesting the political will of our governments to find just and reasonable solutions to our problems, thus creating the climate of confidence which is indispensable to the search for these solutions."

Mr. Ecevit had proposed the summit meeting last month with Mr. Karamanlis conveying his approval on Jan. 23. Despite the optimism expressed by some Greeks over the meeting, officials close to the Premier's Office said they expected "very little to come out of it because of Ecevit's precarious political position."

Mr. Ecevit has a slim two-seat parliamentary majority. He might easily be toppled if he agrees to solutions even a few members of his coalition find unacceptable.

Mr. Karamanlis, instead, enjoys a comfortable majority with 172 of the 300 seats in parliament.

The two neighbours' differences have brought them to the brink of war on several occasions in the past 15 years with tension almost reaching the breaking point in July 1974. At that time, a Greek-led coup against Cypriot President Makarios triggered a Turkish invasion of the Mediterranean island allegedly to protect the Turkish-Cypriot minority. Turkey still occupies about 40 per cent of Cyprus.

Most Mediterranean states will sign 3 anti-pollution accords

GENEVA, Feb. 9 (R). — Most of the 18 Mediterranean coastal states are expected to ratify later this year three international agreements to protect their sea from pollution, a top United Nations official said here last night.

Six countries — Spain, Tunisia, Monaco, Lebanon, Malta and Yugoslavia — have already ratified the accords, and France's ratification is due in a matter of days. Several other Mediterranean governments have said they intend to take action in the next few months. Mr. Mustafa K. Tulba, Egyptian Executive Director of the U.N. Environment Programme, commented: "By the end of this year I am certain that most of the Mediterranean coastal states will have ratified these significant agreements."

The existing six ratifications ensure that the accords, signed in Barcelona two years ago, become international law next Sunday. One of the agreements commits countries to protect the Mediterranean from pollution. Another outlaws dumping of dangerous substances from the land by ships at sea. The third calls for cooperation in combating massive oil spills.

Another treaty to control land-based sources of pollution, such as industrial waste, municipal sewage and agricultural chemicals, is under negotiation. Officials said they hoped it would be ready for signature in Athens some time next year.

Official U.S. report slams Israeli human rights record

WASHINGTON, Feb. 9 (AP).

— The U.S. State Department is criticising human rights policies of some of the United States' staunchest allies, including Israel, which is said to use extreme pressure in interrogating prisoners in the occupied Arab territories.

In a report released today, the department said the Israelis run a "model democracy" in their territory, but not in occupied Arab lands.

"There are documented reports of the use of extreme physical and psychological pressures during interrogation, and instances of brutality by individual interrogators cannot be ruled out," the report said.

It also cited instances where Israeli troops used excessive force against Arab demonstrators and destroyed the homes of Arabs "suspected

of complicity" with what Israelis call "terrorists".

The criticism of Israel was mild, however, in comparison to evaluations of authoritarian regimes like the Philippines. The government of President Ferdinand Marcos was accused of torturing political prisoners and of corruption so pervasive as to hamper aid to the poor.

Some of the nations most often criticised for repression, including South Africa, Chile, Uganda and Cambodia, were not evaluated in the 426-page report, which covers only the 105 nations that receive U.S. arms or economic assistance.

Congress requires the report under a 1976 amendment to the Foreign Aid Law, supposedly to help in allocating American aid. The report was completed last week and furnished to Congress and the countries involved.

State Department officials, speaking privately, have indicated that they consider such reports to be an unnecessary irritant in foreign relations because many nations consider it arrogant of the United States to evaluate human rights in other lands.

Several countries, including Brazil and El Salvador, told the United States in 1977 that they would rather do without U.S. aid.

Already this year Cyprus has protested that the department whitewashed Turkish human rights violations in the occupied section of the island to pave the way for renewed military aid to Turkey.

There is no necessary connection between the human rights evaluations and the levels of U.S. aid in the president's foreign aid budget proposal, details of which will be released later this month.

Informal sources have said that of all the countries criticised, only Nicaragua will be cut off from all military sales.

In other countries, like the Philippines, South Korea, Taiwan and Indonesia — all considered U.S. allies — security considerations outweighed human rights violations, said the sources, who asked not to be identified.

In general, the reports found nothing to criticise NATO allies by, all of which are Western democracies, or in Australia, New Zealand and Japan, India and Spain, which mov-

ed to restore democratic freedoms last year, were singled out for special praise.

Egypt was praised for the "continued dismantling of the police state set up under Jamal Abdul Nasser."

Iran "does not provide a process of law in military courts which try persons accused of security violations," the report said. It estimated that 2,200 Iranians are in prison for "state security violations."

President Hafez Assad of Syria "has markedly improved human rights standards" compared to previous regimes, the report said.

U.S. accused of violating Red Indian human rights

GENEVA, Feb. 9 (R).

— An American Indian spokesman last night accused the United States before the United Nations Human Rights Commission of genocide, enslaving Indian women and depriving Indians in the US of their land at the rate of 18,000 hectares a year.

Mr. Jim Durham of the International Indian Treaty Council said the U.S. government was guilty of genocide under U.N. Conventions. Some 25 to 30 per cent of Indian children were removed from their homes and placed with non-Indians to be brought up, a practice condemned as genocide under U.N. Conventions.

Mr. Durham said: "The U.S. government has, over the past 50 years, sterilised at least a per cent of Indian women, he told the 32-state commission. The U.S. delegate made no immediate reply to the charges which the commission can take up only if a delegate also raises the issue."

U.S. troops dig New England out of snow

BOSTON, Feb. 9 (R).

— About 1,000 troops with snow-clearing equipment were today digging three New England states out from under the worst snowfall in the area's history.

President Carter declared Massachusetts, Connecticut and Rhode Island disaster areas, ordering a military airlift of troops and equipment from Texas and Georgia.

New York was slowly recovering from the storm with 50 per cent of public transport back in operation and all airports functioning. However, food stores still reported shortages of milk and bread.

Boston, paralysed by 68 cms. of snow, power failures, flooding in low-lying areas as well as looting, received the first of four government relief planes yesterday with the remainder arriving throughout the night.

Gov. Michael Dukakis extended the city's snow emergency, which had closed schools, banned car travel, and closed most stores, so that troops and workmen could clear the roads.

There were also reports of looting in coastal areas of Massachusetts where residents

had to leave their homes because of rising floods. There was also sporadic looting in Providence, Rhode Island after power blackouts and heavy falls of snow.

About 119 arrests were reported in Boston's poorer neighbourhoods during two major city-wide blackouts that started on Tuesday night. About 40,000 homes and apartments were still without electricity early today.

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More than 50 deaths have been attributed to the storm throughout the northeast, 13 in Massachusetts alone.

In many of the low-lying areas along the Massachusetts coast, property damage from flooding and high tides was estimated in the millions, according to Gov. Dukakis.

Cambodia: More clashes with Viets

BANGKOK, Feb. 9 (R).

— Cambodia today reported dozens of fresh Vietnamese casualties this week in border clashes in the Parrot's Beak area, midway between Ho Chi Minh City

and Phnom Penh. Radio Phnom Penh, monitored here, said, the series of clashes started last Saturday night, when more than a battalion of "Vietnamese aggressors", backed

by artillery, infiltrated into Cambodian territory in Chantrea district in the tip of the Parrot's Beak.

In a day-long engagement, the Vietnamese unit lost 30 dead, and carried many other dead and wounded back across the frontier as they pulled back, the radio said.

Fighting in the area continued the next day until the Vietnamese retreated to their own territory.

Radio Phnom Penh said these and other incidents in the same area this week showed that Vietnam was insincere in proposing negotiations, and instead wanted to seize Cambodian territory.

"Hillside strangler" caught?

LOS ANGELES, Feb. 9 (R).

— Police today held a hit-part actor from the Starkey and Hurch television series for suspected involvement in the "hillside strangler" slayings of 12 young women. Actor Ned York, 37, was booked for investigation on one of the murders after he called police to his Hollywood Hills home and made a mumbling, incoherent statement about the killings. Assistant Police Chief Daryl Gates told reporters soon after the arrest: "I don't want to raise anyone's expectations at this point that we have solved these murders."

Suspended S. African jail for Mrs. Mandela

BLOEMFONTEIN, South Africa, Feb. 9 (R).

— Black militant Mrs. Winnie Mandela was today sentenced to jail terms of six months, suspended for four years, on each of two charges of breaking a government banning order. Magistrate Chris Steytler said he was taking into account that both incidents occurred soon after Mrs. Mandela was sent to Broadfontein, in the Orange Free State, last May and found herself in a strange place. But he warned: "She will be well advised to make sure in future that she acts within the terms of the order." Mrs. Mandela's lawyer said he would appeal against both the convictions and the sentences. "If the accused is imprisoned for discussing the price and size of a chicken, there must be something wrong with our justice system," the lawyer said. Mr. George Bizos was referring to a charge of attending an unlawful social gathering — forbidden by the government order — which Mrs. Mandela made from her home in Soweto to Broadfontein. The charge involves a conversation between Mrs. Mandela and two other people during which they discussed, among other things, the price of a chicken.

The Horn of Africa -- an international imbalance of power

The situation in the Horn of Africa is causing concern to the West and the conservative Arab states. The war in Ethiopia's Ogaden region between Somali-backed Western Somali Liberation Front (WSLF) and the deteriorating position in the Province of Eritrea, where guerrillas continue to press Ethiopian troops is dragging other nations into the conflict. Russia and other communist states are pouring arms and men into Ethiopia to shore up the Marxist regime and Somalia is calling for help from the West.

By Andrew Lycett

Russian advent

LONDON — The Horn of Africa is increasingly becoming a horn of plenty — of trouble. The situation in Ethiopia is reminiscent of Angola and Vietnam, with foreign powers flexing their muscles and causing their puppets to career along the path towards potential destruction.

The Soviet Union has in the past few weeks stepped up its supply of arms and men to the Dergue, as the ruling military clique in Addis Ababa is known. In December 220 aircraft, 15 per cent of the Soviet air transport fleet, were involved in a massive airlift from southern Russia to Ethiopia via refuelling stops in Iraq and Aden.

Ethiopia now seems set to turn the tide in the desert war it has been fighting against troops of the Western Somali Liberation Front (WSLF) which, backed and financed by the Somali government, launched an attack on the Ethiopian Province of Ogaden that it has always claimed as part of Greater Somalia.

The Ethiopian army, wracked by political disturbances and instability in Addis, debilitated by mutinies amongst its men and burdened further by its long standing war against the Eritrean guerrillas in the north, reeled from the concerted Somali attack.

The WSLF took Jijiga and was poised on the outskirts of the strategic Ethiopian town of Harar in November. Another push and the Somalis could have taken Harar and the important railway junction of Dire Dawa. Then the plains stretching 200 miles across to Addis Ababa would have been open to them.

But late last year Russia, with support from its allies and friends in East Europe, Cuba, Libya, and South Yemen, began ferrying large quantities of equipment and personnel by ship and air to Ethiopia to shore up its faltering Marxist ally.

The Ethiopian army, which previously had been equipped with American equipment, began last year to adapt to Russian arms, particularly long-range artillery such as 185mm and 155 mm guns, modern T55 tanks, and MIG 21 and MIG 23 fighter planes.

East European, Cuban and South Yemeni personnel were reportedly in Ethiopia instructing both the regular army and the 100,000 strong peasant militia in the use of these weapons. Israel, also, has admitted it supplied arms to Ethiopia.

While the Russians were busy building up their position in Ethiopia the leader of the Dergue, Col. Mengistu Haile Mariam was consolidating his rule. The Somalis were also seeking to strengthen their side of the fence.

After the Somalis' initial thrust into the Ogaden last summer, the initiative began to slip away from them. With superior fire and air power and using intelligence supplied to them by the Russians who, incredibly, were still then arming both the Ethiopian and Somali sides, the Somalis had beaten back the Ethiopian forces.

Before the fighting the Soviet Union had thought that influence in both Somalia and Ethiopia might enable it to keep the peace in the Ogaden. But the leftward political lurches of Col. Mengistu's gov-

ernment together with the Ethiopians' unilateral abrogation of its 24-year-old military alliance with Washington last April, brought the Russians closer to Addis Ababa.

The growing alliance between the Dergue and the Soviet Union alarmed Somalia which began last year to look to the West for military support in its incursions into the Ogaden.

At one time it seemed that a number of Western powers would sell Somalia the arms it needed to keep its war effort going. But unease about the nature of Somalia's claims and methods to the Ogaden caused the West to draw back. Britain particularly was influenced by Kenya's fear that once Somalia had secured the Ogaden it would turn its allegedly expansionist sights on the Northern Frontier District of Kenya.

So Somalia received remarkably little Western support. As Russian arms began to make their fire power felt and as the greater depth of the Ethiopian population began to become an important factor in the battle, Somalia's long supply line to the gates of Harar began to look very extended and the WSLF offensive very vulnerable to counter-attack.

Anti-Soviet Somalia

Incensed by Russian support for its enemies in Ethiopia, the Somalis felt they needed to make a big gesture to ensure the backing of the West. So in the same way that Ethiopia's cutting of military ties with the United States had led to increased Soviet involvement on the Dergue's side, Somalia hoped that by expelling remaining Soviet soldiers and technicians on its soil, it would encourage Western support.

In November Somalia duly expelled all remaining Russian forces, including those which had been based at the port of Berbera, once viewed by the West as an important Russian stronghold for control of the Red Sea and the petro-tanker routes of the Indian Ocean.

Still the West declined to get involved on the Somalis'

side. Some Western arms filtered through to Mogadishu, the Somali capital, via private deals and through third parties such as Iran. West Germany pumped a certain amount of united aid into the country in grateful thanks for the role of Somali President Mohammed Siad Barre in the storming of the hijacked Lufthansa jet at Mogadishu airport in October. This money was used for procurement of weapons.

But the official Western line remained that was reiterated by representative of the United States, Britain, France, Italy and West Germany when they met recently in Washington to discuss the Horn of Africa situation.

In their communique the Western nations declared their belief that "no lasting solution to the problems of the region can be found by force of arms" and stated their support for the efforts of the Organisation of African Unity mediation committee to find a peaceful solution to the conflict.

The deteriorating situation in Eritrea, where guerrilla movements hold the main road from the Port of Massawa to the provincial capital Asmara and are poised on the outskirts of Asmara itself, makes it imperative that the Ethiopians score a quick success against the WSLF before turning their arms against the Eritreans.

The imminent threat of a Soviet-backed Ethiopian attack on its positions around Harar and in the Ogaden is now clearly causing Somalia concern.

In an obvious plea for Western support, Somali Charge d'Affaires in Nairobi, Dahir Hussein, alleged that 6,000 to 7,000 Cubans, 7,000 to 8,000 Russians and 5,000 to 6,000 troops from East Germany, Hungary, Poland and Czechoslovakia were poised to help Ethiopia invade Somalia.

Their plans, said Mr. Dahir, involved the capture first of the Red Sea Port of Berbera and then of the Indian Ocean town of Kismayu, only 100 miles north of the Kenyan border. The prospect of this Soviet-backed expansion is beginning seriously to worry conservative Middle Eastern countries.

Shah intervenes

Leading the recent burst of support for the Somalis has been the Shah of Iran.

Iran and Saudi Arabia are anxious to halt the expansion of Marxism in the Red Sea and Gulf area.

The Shah sees President Barre's one-time socialist regime as a useful moderate ally in his efforts to create a middle force in the region, distinct from the leftwing excesses of Ethiopia and the rightwing zeal of Saudi Arabia.

So anxious has Saudi Arabia become about the situation in the Ogaden that it too has put aside its fears about Iranian expansion on the Arab side of the Gulf. During a recent visit to Tehran, Saudi Foreign Minister Saud Al Faisal committed his country's assistance to Somalia if its borders were violated. In doing this he followed in the footsteps of the Shah himself.

Other Arab countries, including Qatar and Kuwait, are reported to be helping Somalia financially. Iraq and Syria are said to be supplying Mogadishu with spare parts for its Soviet weaponry, while Sudan and Egypt are enthusiastic supporters of President Barre's anti-Soviet stance.

For their part the Ethiopians can still call from the Arab World on the support of the Marxist South Yemenis and oil-rich Libyans who have been financing much of Addis Ababa's purchase of Russian military equipment.

If the Ethiopians do push forward and seek to repulse the Somalis from their soil, a nasty conflict between Russian-backed Marxism and Western-looking conservatives seems certain.

The Somalis can say with some justification that they are helping an infant popular revolution defend itself against a foreign-backed invasion of its soil.

The Somalis can say, again with some truth, that the Ogaden is Somali-speaking and looking and was only incorporated into Ethiopia as a result of the expansionist empire-

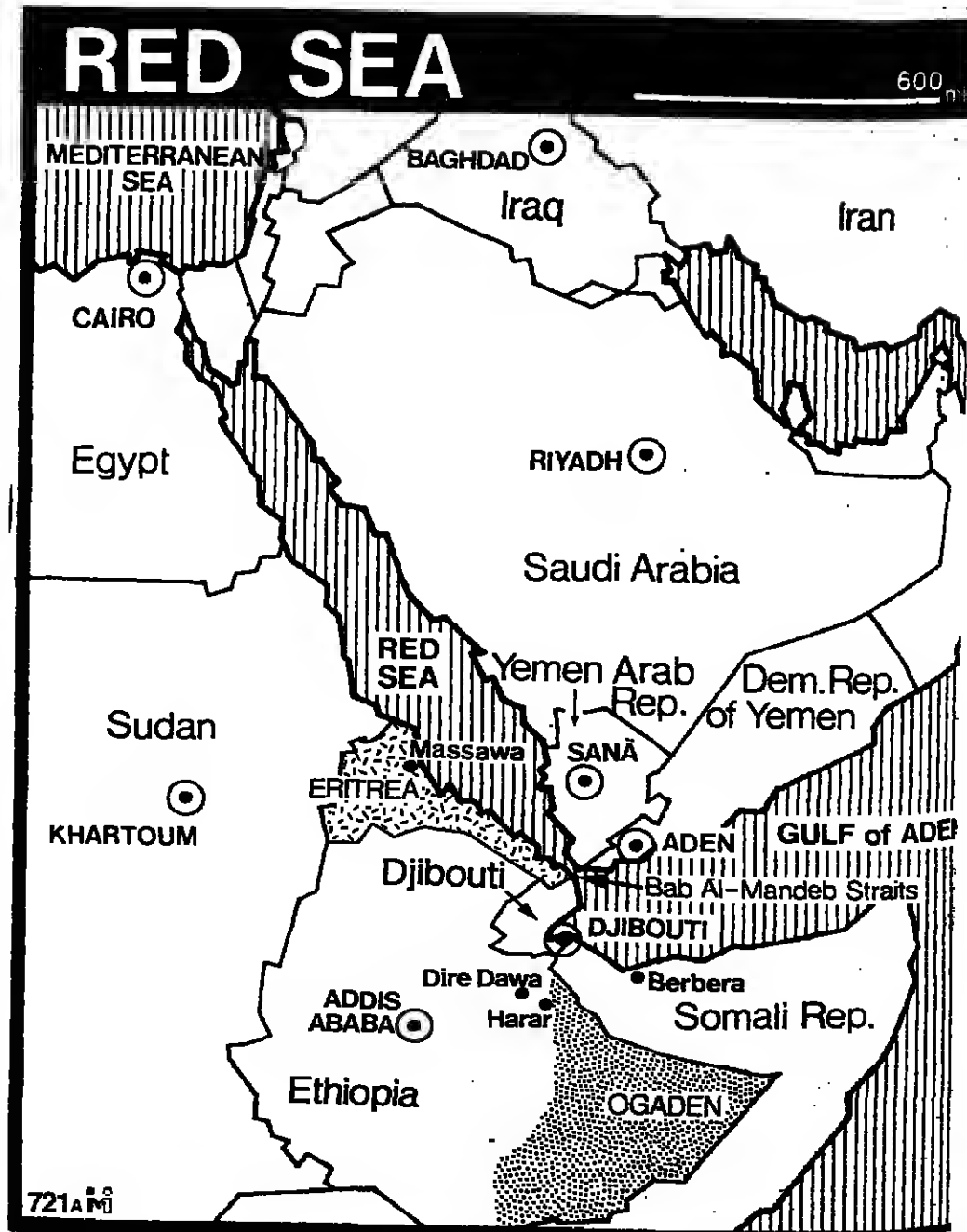
building of Ethiopian Emperor Haile Selassie, with the convenience of his then European allies.

The West now abrogates responsibility for the situation and believes a solution can only come from Organisation of African Unity. But the Addis-based OAU feels that one

of its basic tenets -- that of the territorial integrity of its members -- has been violated by the Somali incursion into the Ogaden. It is therefore unlikely to give member Somalia a kindly hearing. It would rather retreat from the confrontation altogether.

Into the vacuum are stepping

Islamist states anxious about the future of their right if the Marxist Ethiopian state is allowed to retaliate against the Somalis and to press. The next few months should see how this dangerous situation will work itself out. The prognostications are optimistic.



مكتبة الامم